

Message Text

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-11 ISO-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 SAM-01 ACDA-19

SAJ-01 AF-10 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /132 W

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FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5218

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T CAIRO 0549

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR UK IO

SUBJECT: DIEGO GARCIA

REF: PARA 7, STATE 22250 AND PARA 4, LONDON 1554

1. MY BRITISH COLLEAGUE, SIR PHILIP ADAMS, CALLED ME THIS AFTERNOON IN CONNECTION WITH REFERENCED SUBJECT. HE HAD JUST RECEIVED AN URGENT TELEGRAM FROM LONDON REQUESTING HIS VIEWS ON MY EARLIER SUGGESTION GOE BE INCLUDED AMONG THOSE RED SEA LITTORAL STATES TO BE NOTIFIED. FOREIGN OFFICE HAD INDICATED SOME RELUCTANCE TO DOING SO. THIS WAS THE FIRST THAT ADAMS HAD HEARD ABOUT THE MATTER. HE AND I HAD NOT YET HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS IT.

2. IN VIEW URGENCY, ADAMS AND I HAVE JUST MET TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON THE SUBJECT. I POINTED OUT TO HIM MY RATIONALE FOR MAKING RECOMMENDATION THAT GOE BE TOLD. SPECIFICALLY, I NOTED VARIOUS RED SEA LITTORAL STATES ARE BEING INFORMED AND EGYPTIANS, IN MY VIEW, WILL EXPECT SIMILAR COURTESY. I ALSO TOLD HIM OF EARLIER FAHMY APPROACHES TO ME IN CONNECTION WITH RECENT US NAVAL TASK

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FORCE SURGES INTO THE INDIAN OCEAN. FAHMY HAD POINTED OUT

ON EACH SUCH OCCASION THAT PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN HAD RAISED MATTER WITH EGYPTIANS AND CONTENTED SUCH US ACTIONS CAUSED EMBARRASSMENT FOR THE EGYPTIANS IN THEIR RELATIONS WITH OTHER ARABS. WE MUST RECKON WITH PDRY REPEATING ITS CHARGES WHEN HEARING OF DIEGO GARCIA PLANS, AND I THOUGHT WE COULD COUNT ON SUBJECT COMING UP IN ARAB LEAGUE CONTEXT. IN MY JUDGMENT, THEREFORE, IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO PREEMPT ANOTHER FAHMY BARRAGE BY TELLING EGYPTIANS IN ADVANCE OF WHAT WE INTEND TO DO AND WHY. THIS WILL ALSO GIVE THEM CHANCE TO CONSIDER HOW TO HANDLE IT IN THE EVENT PDRY OR OTHER RADICAL ARAB STATES RAISE MATTER IN OVERALL ARAB CONTEXT.

3. I SAID I THOUGHT NOTIFICATION COULD BE HANDLED IN A LOW KEY FASHION AND PRESENTED AS A COURTESY TO OUR EGYPTIAN FRIENDS AT A TIME WHEN US-GOE RELATIONS ARE IMPROVING. IT WAS IMMATERIAL TO ME WHETHER BRITS OR WE TOOK THE LEAD; OR, FOR THAT MATTER, IF, SUBJECT TO WASHINGTON'S AND LONDON'S CONCURRENCE, I DID SO ALONE.

4. ADAMS POINTED OUT THAT BRITISH SITUATION IS NOT THE SAME. EGYPTIANS KNOW BRITS HAVE SOME NAVAL FORCES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AND HAVE NOT AT ANY TIME TAXED HIM ON THE SUBJECT. ADAMS INDICATED UNDERSTANDING, HOWEVER, THAT OUR SITUATION VIS-A-VIS THE EGYPTIANS IS DIFFERENT. WHILE HE SEES NO NEED FOR BRITS TO TAKE ANY INITIATIVE AT THIS TIME, HE HAS NO OBJECTION TO OUR DOING SO UNILATERALLY. IF WE DO SO, HE ASKS THAT I TELL FAHMY THAT THE NEW DIEGO GARCIA INSTALLATIONS ARE BEING PUT IN WITH HMG'S FULL AGREEMENT. IF THEREAFTER EGYPTIANS RAISE MATTER WITH HIM, HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO SPEAK ALONG OUR JOINTLY AGREED LINES.

5. ADAMS IS SENDING AN URGENT MESSAGE TO LONDON THIS EVENING INFORMING FOREIGN OFFICE OF OUR CONCLUSIONS. SUBJECT DEPARTMENT AND FOREIGN OFFICE CONCURRENCE, RECOMMEND THAT IF HMG PREFERS NOT TO INVOLVE ITSELF IN INFORMING GOE AT THIS TIME, I BE INSTRUCTED TO DO SO SOLELY ON USG BEHALF.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY BASES, PORT FACILITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974CAIRO00549
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740259/aaaacdkr.tel
Line Count: 107
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: PARA 7, STATE 22250 AND PARA 4, LOND, ON 1554
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <25-Nov-2002 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DIEGO GARCIA
TAGS: MARR, UK, IO, US, EG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005